

**BENBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016  
AT 7:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Benbrook was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 911 Winscott Road with the following Board Members present:

Jean Sparks  
Kyle Ewing  
Karen Henderson  
Carol Stacy

Also Present: Bennett Howell, P.E., Public Services Director  
Sue Clark, Recording Secretary  
Rene Franklin, Council Member  
Dana McCallum, Board Appointee  
Leslie Singleton, Board Appointee  
Robert Wood, Board Appointee

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chair, Karen Henderson.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – February 11, 2015

Motion by Ms. Stacy to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting.  
Second by Mr. Ewing. The Chair called the question.

Vote on the motion:

Ayes: Ms. Sparks, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Henderson, and Ms. Stacy

Nays: None

Motion carried: 4 – 0

**III. OATH OF OFFICE**

The oath of office was administered by Sue Clark, Notary, to Jean Sparks, Place 1, Dana McCallum, Place 3, Leslie Singleton, Place 5, Robert Wood, Place 6 and Carol Stacy, Place 7.

#### **IV. SELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON**

Motion by Ms. Stacy to elect Karen Henderson Chair. Second by Mr. Ewing. The Chair called the question.

Vote on the motion:

Ayes: Ms. Sparks, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Stacy, Ms. McCallum, Ms. Singleton, and Mr. Wood

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7 – 0

#### **V. SELECTION OF BOARD VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Motion by Ms. McCallum to elect Leslie Singleton Vice-Chair. Second by Ms. Stacy. The Chair called the question.

Vote on the motion:

Ayes: Ms. Sparks, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Henderson, Ms. Stacy, Ms. McCallum, Ms. Singleton, and Mr. Wood

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7 – 0

#### **VI. UPDATE ON PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Bennett Howell, P.E., Public Services Director, said the following is a list of parks in Benbrook.

- Robot Park
- Castle Park
- Ball Fields
- Twilight Park
- Rolling Hills Park
- Tennis/Basketball Courts
- Mont Del Park
- Timber Creek Park
- Community Garden
- Green Ribbon

Mr. Howell said the Green Ribbon is the landscape along Benbrook Boulevard and FM2871 and was added in 2015 to the city parks department responsibility. The landscaping was added as part of a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the city.

Mr. Howell said that park maintenance is a large part of what the Park's Department does. Castle Park equipment was recently repainted by the staff. He said the robot in Robot Park is the only robot left in the nation that is still functioning equipment. There are people that come from all over the nation to

take pictures and they are amazed that Benbrook's is still functioning. There is another in California but it is fenced off and not available to the public.

The spring floods of 2015 closed a lot of areas around the lake, including Baja Beach and several streets that service some pavilions. The water was at the edge of the spillway but did not go over.

Mr. Howell said there are several hike and bike trails throughout the city and staff is always looking for opportunities to expand them through Parks and Wildlife and TxDOT grants. In 2015 staff sealed the trails throughout the city to make them last longer.

The Parks Department is in the process of replacing the wooden light poles in Dutch Branch Park with metal poles. The soccer fields and Field 8 have been completed.

Mr. Howell said it is thought that all the parks department does is landscape and maintenance but they also play a large part in special city events such as Trash Bash. There was a lot of trash because of the spring floods and over 300 people participated.

Other events the park department helps with are:

- Wounded Warrior/Fallen Hero Event
- Heritage Fest
- Winter Wonderland
- City Hall Christmas Lights
- Household Hazardous Waste/Shredding/E-Waste

Mr. Howell said concessionaires operate businesses in Dutch Branch Park and pay the city a small fee to use the facilities. They include:

- YMCA
- Power Play Racing
- Benbrook Stables
- Par 3
- Driving Range
- BYBSA
- Benbrook Marina

Other special events that occurred in Dutch Branch Park in 2015 include:

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▪ American Diabetes          | ▪ Relay for Life            |
| ▪ Benbrook Middle School     | ▪ Restoration Family Church |
| ▪ Bikers Against Child Abuse | ▪ Rutledge Foundation       |
| ▪ Disc Dog Competition       | ▪ Trident Sports            |
| ▪ Eric Williams Race         | ▪ Western Hills High School |

Mr. Howell said he would take the board on a fieldtrip to visit all the parks in the spring. He said Benbrook has a great park system for a town this size but they are always looking to make them better with the limited funds available. The city did add five new park benches along the hike and bike trails and one in Timbercreek Park.

Mr. Howell asked for any comments or questions from the board.

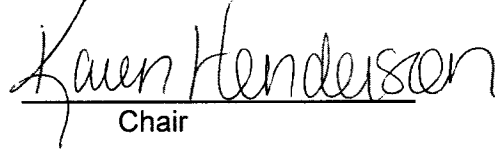
Ms. Singleton asked how the board knows what money is available for parks in the budget for 2016. Mr. Howell said the budget is available to view on the city website but there is no money allocated for parks this year. He said the newest park, Rolling Hills Park, cost approximately \$850,000. The city is looking for grants to provide restrooms at other parks. Ms. Singleton said she would like to discuss the budget at the next meeting.

Mr. Howell and board discussed grants, wildflowers, trash removal and maintenance issues in the parks. Mr. Howell said Fort Worth Independent School District is looking for sites for sport facilities but the Corps of Engineers regulates the land around the lake and everything on that property has to be lake related.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**APPROVED**

  
Chair

Oct. 12, 2016